

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Tuesday, July 11, 2000

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SHERWOOD).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
July 11, 2000.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DON SHERWOOD to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 4577. An act making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 4577) "An Act making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes," requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. SPECTER, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. GORTON, Mr. GREGG, Mr. CRAIG, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. KYL, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. INOUE, Mr. REID, Mr. KOHL, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. BYRD, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 311. An act to authorize the Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation to establish a memorial in the District of Columbia or its environs, and for other purposes.

### MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 19, 1999, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the par-

ties, with each party limited to not to exceed 25 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes, but in no event shall the debate continue beyond 9:50 a.m.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) for 5 minutes.

### TRIBUTE TO HARRIET RESSLER

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a very special woman. A few weeks ago, Harriet Ressler celebrated her 60th year in business. Sixty years ago, she opened a women's clothing store in Blooming Prairie, Minnesota, named Harriet's Dres-Wel. That was back in 1940.

Mr. Speaker, I might just say that Harriet just celebrated her 86th birthday as well. She started back then with only one employee who came in to cover the lunch hour and got paid 50 cents a day. She now has 10 employees and the business has expanded to two buildings. Up until 2 weeks ago, she worked 6 days a week.

Mr. Speaker, in a world that some say is dominated by glass ceilings, Harriet Ressler is living proof that America is still the land of opportunity.

As Paul Harvey would say, "Harriet, lead on."

### CONGRESS SHOULD ADDRESS THE LIVABILITY OF AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, we have reached the time in our political calendar when both parties are looking towards their convention as a time to set a tone, to chart a course, and to identify the policies and priorities that a new administration might bring. Both parties are crafting their platforms in an effort to highlight the most appealing parts of their agendas and to attract voters.

At the same time, this Congress is moving towards its final few days, debating and voting on the legislation that will be our legacy. If we want to leave our mark on America's future, now is that time.

As one who came to Congress to help make our communities more livable, to

make them places where families could be safe, healthy, and economically secure, I would urge my colleagues in both parties to take advantage of the opportunity we have to deal with these issues today, to get in step with the concerns and demands of millions of Americans who are concerned about the livability of our communities.

Last week, The Washington Post carried a front-page article detailing the political importance of these issues of livability, sprawl, congestion and green space in California, our Nation's largest State.

After a decade of neglect, Californians are refocusing their attention and their tax dollars on green spaces, cleaner water, preservation of seacoast, mountains and the desert. This spring, State voters approved a \$2.1 billion measure for better parks and conservation.

In Los Angeles, which has only one-tenth of an acre of green space per 1,000 residents, the smallest amount of any major American city, the State is planning on spending \$80 million to create parks and recreational land along the Los Angeles River.

It will also give some of the money from the bond proceeds to private groups to purchase and preserve open space. For instance, in Los Angeles, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy will get \$35 million to purchase remaining open land around the city.

State action, however, is just the tip of the iceberg. In the past 2 years, almost 20 cities have approved restrictions on sprawl. And although this kind of sentiment might be expected in the traditional more "activist" areas of the State, it is being manifested across California.

Last month's Field Poll showed 70 percent of voters feeling it was very important to elect officials with strong environmental commitment. The Public Policy Institute of California found a majority of voters preferred to spend their State surplus on green space rather than tax cuts.

Even more telling is that a majority of voters in Los Angeles, in the Bay Area, and even in the Central Valley told pollsters they would favor initiatives to slow development, even if it meant slowing economic growth.

Mr. Speaker, as an advocate for livable communities, I do not believe that it is necessary at all to trade economic growth for sensible development policies. Intelligently using our resources and coaxing more value from the investments we make can make such false choices unnecessary.

In California, and throughout the country, officials at the State, local, and Federal level are beginning to understand the strong sentiment in favor of liveability. This is a movement that the people have already started. As Joe Edmiston of the San Monica Mountains Conservancy said, "The public is far ahead of the politicians on this."

Mr. Speaker, this is not just true in California, but nationwide. At the Federal level, we in Congress have a unique opportunity to advance these issues. The Federal Government is the Nation's largest landowner, tenant, and employer. From the military to the Post Office, from our vast public landholdings to our transportation infrastructure and the environmental partnership, we have all the tools we need.

Our actions have tremendous impacts on how Americans live, work, and travel. By working to make the Federal Government a better partner with the State and local governments, with business, individual citizens and community groups, we can make our cities and suburbs across America more livable communities and our families safer, healthier and more economically secure.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There being no further requests for morning hour debates, pursuant to clause 12, rule I, the House will stand in recess until 10 a.m. today.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 8 minutes a.m.) the House stood in recess until 10 a.m.

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#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order at 10 a.m.

#### PRAYER

Rabbi Linda Motzkin, Temple Sinai, Saratoga Springs, New York, offered the following prayer:

In the Talmud, we are taught that every human being should be cognizant of three things, "know from whence you came, and where you are going, and before whom in the future you will be called to account."

Honorable Representatives, you who serve in this House know from whence you came, from every geographic region across this great Nation. And you know that the decisions you make in this Chamber will shape where we all are going, all the men, women and children whom you represent, the people of every faith, race and background who comprise the great tapestry of humanity that is the source of our country's strength.

And so we pray to the Eternal God: May these men and women who serve

their country be mindful that, in the future, they will be called to account, not only before the citizens they represent, and not only in the eyes of history, but before You, the God of all. May they be granted in their deliberations on this day a measure of Your wisdom and Your compassion. Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TRAFICANT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### RABBI LINDA MOTZKIN

(Mr. SWEENEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I have the distinct pleasure to welcome Rabbi Linda Motzkin of the temple Mount Sinai in Saratoga Springs, New York, as she offered today's opening prayer.

Rabbi Motzkin was ordained by the Hebrew Union College Judiciary Institute of Religion in 1986. She has a BA in Hebrew Language from the University of California at Berkeley and an MA in Hebrew Letters from HUC-JIR.

Prior to her arrival at Skidmore in 1986, she taught the Judaic Studies department at the University of Cincinnati.

She is also coauthor of two Hebrew language textbooks, the First Hebrew Primer and Prayerbook Hebrew: The Easy Way.

In addition to serving as Skidmore's Jewish chaplain, she is co-rabbi, together with her husband, Rabbi Jonathan Rubenstein, of Temple Sinai of Saratoga Springs, a Reform Jewish congregation.

Rabbi Motzkin has a close relationship with all three local Jewish congregations and works to foster connections between Skidmore students and the local Saratoga Springs community, as well as all of those who live in New York's 22nd Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, I am extremely pleased to have her here and welcome her participation today.

#### RELIGIOUS BIGOTRY IN FRANCE

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the freedom to worship freely according to the dictates of one's conscience is one of the basic rights enshrined in the bill of rights and in similar documents around the world.

The European Convention on Human Rights is another document that guarantees freedom of religion, but the powerful socialist party in France has compiled a list of 173 denominations that it considers dangerous; they call them cults.

The socialist parliament is about to send legislation to President Chirac that would imprison any member of these denominations for up to 2 years for proselytizing or evangelism.

Who is on the list? Well, it includes the Jehovah's Witnesses, the Scientologists, but it also includes Baptists and other well-known evangelical denominations.

Mr. Speaker, the President and Vice President of the United States are both Southern Baptists. Were they to live in France and invite friends to church, they might be imprisoned for that under this proposed law.

The freedom of religion is threatened around the world, but not just in Third World countries.

Mr. Speaker, we must stand against bigotry of every kind, including religious bigotry.

#### INTERNATIONAL ABDUCTION

(Mr. LAMPSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to continue delivering my 1-minute stories on the issue of international child abduction.

On October 22, 1994, after learning that she was going to lose custody of her children, Mrs. Isabel Felix Leon fled to Mexico with Margaret and William Leon Sandige.

At the time of the abduction, Margaret was 6 and William was 1. After the abduction, the children's father, William Sandige, was granted full custody; and warrants for the mother's arrest were issued. In November of 1995, the mother was arrested at a border crossing without the children and was released after revealing their location.

Under the Hague treaty, Mr. Sandige was awarded full custody of the children from the Mexican court system; however, the abductor appealed the decision to the Supreme Court and has blocked further progress on the case.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sandige's children are now 11 and 6 years old. They have spent 6 years apart from each other. It is time to end their separation and the separation of thousands of other parents and children who are being forced apart. It is time, Mr. Speaker, to bring our children home.